

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 are pending. Claims 27-39 are withdrawn pursuant to the Examiner's previous restriction requirement.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/203,698 ("Comp"). With respect to independent Claims 1, 8, 17 and 22, the Examiner states:

Regarding claim 1 Comp teaches a method of enabling channel scanning in a wireless station, said method comprising (figs. 1-5):

receiving from an access point data provided to indicate a possibility of regulatory domain change (para. # 0021-0022, and 0025); and

after a connection with the access point is terminated, selecting a channel scanning method based upon said data (para. # 0021-0022, and 0025).

* * *

Regarding claim 8 Comp teaches a method of enabling channel scanning in a wireless station, said method comprising (figs. 1-4):

establishing communication between said wireless station and an access point (para. # 0021-0022, and 0025); receiving information in a lifetime field related to a period of time during which regulatory domain information could be used after the communication between said wireless station and said access point has been lost (para. # 0021-0022, and 0025); and determining whether an elapsed period of time after the communication between said wireless station and said access point has been lost is greater than the period of time in said lifetime field (para. # 0021-0022, and 0025).

* * *

Regarding claim 17 Comp teaches a wireless station adapted to scan for channels in a wireless communication network, said wireless station comprising (figs. 1-5):

a receiver for receiving a data block, wherein said data

block comprises a regulatory domain change pre-alert field (para. # 0011-0014, 0021-0022, and 0025); a controller coupled to said receiver, said controller selecting a channel scanning method based upon data in said domain change pre-alert field (para. # 0011-0014, 0021-0022, and 0025); and a transmitter coupled to said controller (para. # 0011-0014, 0021-0022, and 0025).

* * *

Regarding claim 22 Comp teaches a wireless station adapted to scan for channels in a wireless communication network, said wireless station comprising (figs. 1-5):

a receiver for receiving a data block, wherein said data block comprises a lifetime field related to the extent of a regulatory domain (para. # 0011-0014, 0021-0022, and 0025); a controller coupled to said receiver, said controller selecting a channel scanning method based upon data in said lifetime field; and a transmitter coupled to said controller (para. # 0011-0014, 0021-0022, and 0025).

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection. Independent Claims 1, 8, and 17 and 22 each recite selecting a scanning method based on data (e.g., a pre-alert field or a lifetime field) that indicates a possible regulatory domain change:

1. A method of enabling channel scanning in a wireless station, said method comprising:

receiving from an access point data provided to indicate a possibility of a regulatory domain change; and,

after a connection with the access point is terminated, selecting a channel scanning method based upon said data.

* * *

8. A method of enabling channel scanning in a wireless station, said method comprising:

establishing communication between said wireless station and an access point;

receiving information in a lifetime field provided to indicate a period of time during which regulatory domain information could be used after the

communication between said wireless station and said access point has been lost; and

determining whether an elapsed period of time after the communication between said wireless station and said access point has been lost is greater than the period of time in said lifetime field.

* * *

17. A wireless station adapted to scan for channels in a wireless communication network, said wireless station comprising:

a receiver for receiving a data block, wherein said data block comprises a regulatory domain change pre-alert field;

a controller coupled to said receiver, said controller selecting a channel scanning method based upon data in said regulatory domain change pre-alert field; and

a transmitter coupled to said controller.

* * *

22. (Previously presented) A wireless station adapted to scan for channels in a wireless communication network, said wireless station comprising:

a receiver for receiving a data block, wherein said data block comprises a lifetime field related to the extent of a regulatory domain;

a controller coupled to said receiver, said controller selecting a channel scanning method based upon data in said lifetime field; and

a transmitter coupled to said controller.

(emphasis added)

Contrary to the Examiner's contention, Comp neither discloses nor suggests providing from an access point data indicative of a regulatory domain change. As Applicants explain in Applicants' Specification, on page 1, at paragraph [03], a regulatory domain is a domain governed by regulations established by a regulatory entity, such as a government of a nation:

Regulatory domains, such as individual nations, independently determine the frequency band and the maximum transmission power allowed for wireless communication systems. The conditions established by each regulatory domain may vary significantly even for the same wireless communication system. For example, while the 4.9-5.0 gigahertz (GHz) band is allowed for IEEE802.11a wireless local area network (WLAN) in Japan, the 4.94-4.99 GHz band is reserved for public safety band in the United States, and thus cannot be used for IEEE802.11a. Similarly, the 5.470-5.725 GHz band, which is planned to be used for IEEE802.11a WLAN in Europe, overlaps with a military band in the United States.

However, Comp provides no teachings regarding regulatory domains. In the paragraphs 11-14, 21-22 and 25, upon which the Examiner relied for his rejection, Comp merely discloses communicating to a mobile unit a possibility of a connection loss based on the signal strength of the mobile unit received at the access point. A possibility of connection loss provides no information to the mobile unit concerning a possible change in regulation domain. For example, for a user operating entirely within a country, a possibility in a connection loss does not indicate any possibility of a regulatory domain change, as no change in scanning method to discover the next access point is necessary. However, when crossing a border, a regulatory domain change occurs even if the mobile unit can maintain connection with the access point in the previous regulatory domain. In that instance, a scanning method different from the scanning methods used in the previous domain may be required when a connection loss occurs. Therefore, the Comp's teachings are irrelevant to regulatory domains. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1, 8, 14, 17 and 22, and their respective dependent Claims 2-7, 9-13, 15-16, 18-21 and 23-26.

All claims (i.e., Claims 1-26) are therefore allowable. If the Examiner has any question regarding the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicant at (408)-392-9250.

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